

who have joined the other churches in this town. O my God! keep them in the love of the truth! My very soul trembles when I think of them. There is not a sufficient number of young people now left in the town (who can unite) to carry on their merry meetings. Every company of them is broken up.

I lately enjoyed the happiness of having upwards of seventy youths and children, that were professors, to visit and hold a conference at my house in one evening. You may guess, but it would be difficult to tell, with what a mixture of joy and trembling I was then filled.

The severest cold, snow and ice we have had this tedious winter, I have not heard once mentioned as any terror to the most delicate ladies, young or old, we have in the place; but they have cheerfully followed their Divine Redeemer into the liquid grave, without the least intimidation.

As to myself, I think if ever I knew what it was to have extraordinary strength, it has been within a few months past. My lungs, which I had thought were on the decay, now seemed to renew their youth. Preaching three and four times a week, besides attending other meetings almost every day for months together, seemed very little if any to exhaust my strength. I think, of all men in the world, I have the greatest cause to be humble before God, for his abundant goodness bestowed upon a most unworthy wretch.

When I think upon my weakness and insufficiency, and the great number of young, inexperienced Christians committed to my charge, my heart shrinks within me; and I am ready to wish they had a more able and pious watchman to go before them. But all the hope I have is, that He who leadeth Joseph like a flock will gather the lambs in his arms, and gently lead his flock into the flowery fields of gospel truth, and beside the still waters of eternal life.

I sometimes anticipate so much trouble, that it quite absorbs my spirits, and drowns my joy. Then I think it best to rejoice when I can, and let to-morrow take thought for itself.

It is, however, a very interesting crisis with us; if we are faithful, and make a right improvement of the great mercies bestowed upon us, we may continue to be a happy people: if not, a series of trouble and sorrow awaits us. Dear brother, pray for us that we may be kept in the love of the truth; that the God of love and peace may ever dwell with us.

I must not indulge my feelings, I shall intrude upon your patience.